

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 64 are pending, with Claims 1 and 39 being independent. Claims 39 through 56, 63, and 64 were allowed. Claims 2 through 19, 58, and 59 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, and Applicant has respectfully maintained those claims in dependent form as it is earnestly believed that the claims from which they depend will be found allowable. Claims 1 and 39 have been amended, including, inter alia, the changes kindly suggested in the Official Action. The specification has been amended, as also kindly suggested in the Official Action.

Claims 1 and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,678,080 (Miyamoto). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, that a surface of the first transparent body which faces on the second transparent body is a total-reflection surface.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Miyamoto fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed feature as recited, inter alia, in Claim 1.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of

these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 49, line 28 and ending at page 50, line 2.

Fig. 6 is a sectional [views] view showing essential parts, within the Y-Z plane, of a viewfinder optical system according to a sixth embodiment of the invention.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 51, line 17 and ending at line 20.

Fig. 7 is a sectional [views] view showing essential parts, within the Y-Z plane, of a viewfinder optical system according to a seventh embodiment of the invention.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 53, line 7 and ending at line 10.

Fig. 8 is a sectional [views] view showing essential parts, within the Y-Z plane, of a viewfinder optical system according to an eighth embodiment of the invention.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 68, line 11 and ending at line 15.

Further, in the case of the thirteenth embodiment shown in [Figs.] Fig. 27, there are located, in order along the optical path, the objective lens OL, the pentagonal roof prism 53, the first prism P71, the second prism P72 and the eyepiece lens EL.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 71, line 1 and ending at line 10.

Further, in order to suppress ghost and the variation of aberration and to obtain a good viewfinder field, it is preferable that the interval Dg is not [grater] greater than "0.04". In addition, in a case where the first prism and the second prism are made of a glass member, there arises a problem in [due] dew condensation if the minute air gap becomes too narrow. As a result, it is preferable that the interval Dg satisfies the following condition:

$$0.02 < Dg \leq 0.04 \quad (\text{unit: mm}).$$

MARKED-UP CLAIM SHEET

1. (Twice Amended) A viewfinder optical system for facilitating a reduction in the size [an optical system to which said viewfinder optical system is attached] thereof without increasing at least one of the incidence of ghost images and decentering aberration, comprising:

an objective lens unit [for inverting an object image];

an image inverting unit for converting [the] an inverted object image formed via said objective lens unit into a non-inverted erecting image; and

an eyepiece lens unit for observing the non-inverted erecting image,

wherein said image inverting unit comprises a first transparent body and a second transparent body which are disposed with an interval put therebetween, said second transparent body having only a function of transmitting a ray of light, [and]

wherein said image inverting unit restrains creation of at least one of ghost images and decentering aberration [caused by the interval between said first transparent body and second transparent body] by making the interval between said first transparent body and said second transparent body not uniform, and

wherein a surface of said first transparent body which faces on said second transparent body is a total-reflection surface.

39. (Twice Amended) A viewfinder optical system for facilitating a reduction in the size [an optical system to which said viewfinder optical system is attached] thereof without increasing at least one of the incidence of ghost images and decentering aberration, comprising:

an objective lens unit [for inverting an object image];

an image inverting unit for converting [the] an inverted object image formed via said objective lens unit into a non-inverted erecting image; and

an eyepiece lens unit for observing the non-inverted erecting image,

wherein said image inverting unit comprises a first transparent body and a second transparent body which are disposed with an interval put therebetween, said second transparent body having only a function of transmitting a ray of light, and

wherein said image inverting unit restrains creation of at least one of ghost images and decentering aberration [caused by the interval between said first transparent body and said second transparent body] by making at least one surface of said first transparent body and said second transparent body a rotationally-asymmetrical surface.